



DAVID • KIRK • MILLA

X-FACTOR[®]



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YARDIN

X-FACTOR



PREVIOUSLY...

X-FACTOR, IN PURSUIT OF THE VILLAINOUS HANGMAN, WHO THEY HAD ASSUMED WAS RESPONSIBLE FOR THE DEATH OF HIS EX-WIFE, DISCOVERED THAT HE'D ACTUALLY BEEN BLACKMAILED BY BLOODBATH, A DEMONIC SOUL REAPER. HANGMAN WAS TO DO BLOODBATH'S DIRTY WORK IN EXCHANGE FOR THE SAFETY OF HIS KIDNAPPED SON, TERRY. CONFRONTING BLOODBATH IN AN OLD, ABANDONED MOVIE STUDIO, THE TEAM ENGAGED HIM IN A FURIOUS BATTLE THAT CLIMAXED WITH THE DEMON ATTEMPTING TO REAP THE TEAM AND GATHER UP THEIR SOULS...AN ATTACK GUIDO PROVED INVULNERABLE TO AND BEAT BLOODBATH TO DEATH. THIS RAISED SOME OBVIOUS QUESTIONS, BUT BEFORE THEY COULD BE ASKED, MADROX FOUND HIMSELF ON THE WRONG END OF A SWORD WIELDED BY ONE OF HIS OWN DUPES: A DEAD ONE, INADVERTENTLY SHOT AND KILLED BY A STARTLED TERRY DURING A BOTCHED RESCUE ATTEMPT, AND NOW POSSESSED BY BLOODBATH.

MEANWHILE: IT TURNS OUT THEY'RE GOING TO BE PRODUCING MINIMATE TOYS FROM ONE OF PETER'S EARLIEST WORKS, "THE DEATH OF JEAN DEWOLFF" FROM SPECTACULAR SPIDER-MAN #107-#110. IF YOU EVER WANTED YOUR VERY OWN SHOTGUN-WIELDING SERIAL KILLER, SIDE BY SIDE WITH HIS FIRST VICTIM, THEN YOU'RE IN LUCK. SO...X-FACTOR MINIMATES, ANYBODY? AND REMEMBER: EVERY TIME YOU BUY ANOTHER MADROX MINIMATE, THAT'S JUST HIM USING HIS POWER.

**PETER
DAVID
WRITER**

**LEONARD
KIRK
ARTIST**

**MATT
MILLA
COLORIST**

**VC'S CORY
PETIT
LETTERER**

**DAVID YARDIN
COVER ARTIST**

**JORDAN D. WHITE
ASSISTANT EDITOR**

**DANIEL KETCHUM
EDITOR**

**NICK LOWE
X-MEN GROUP EDITOR**

**AXEL ALONSO
EDITOR IN CHIEF**

**JOE QUESADA
CHIEF CREATIVE OFFICER**

**DAN BUCKLEY
PUBLISHER**

**ALAN FINE
EXEC. PRODUCER**

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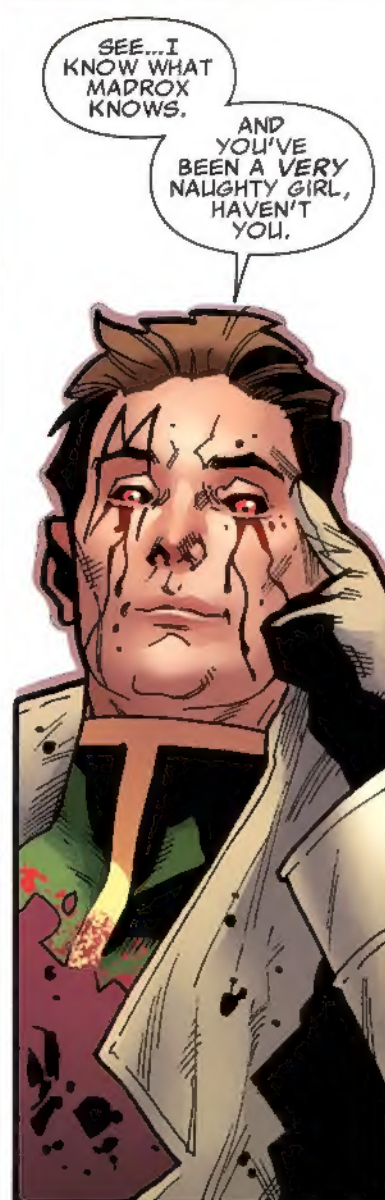
FOR YOU
LATECOMERS: THE
EVIL BLOODBATH
JUST TOOK OVER A
JAMIE MADROX DUPE
AND KILLED
MADROX PRIME!

WHOO-
EEEE! THAT
WAS EXCITING,
WASN'T IT?

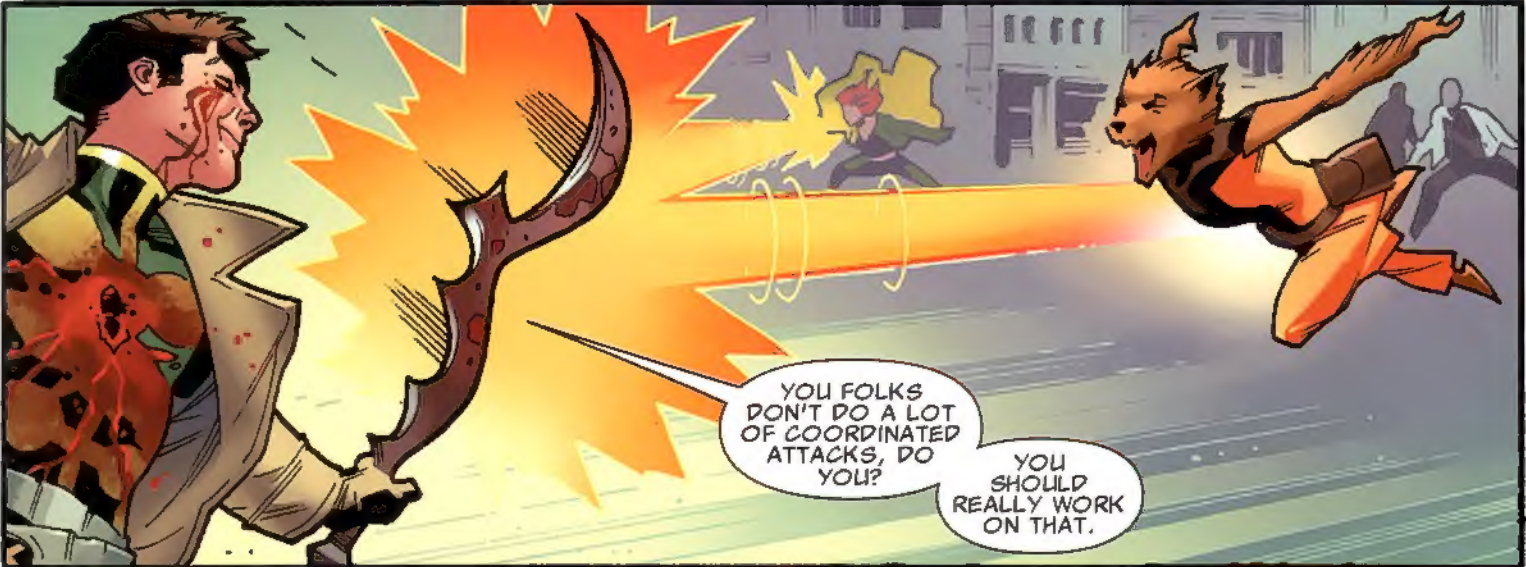
ONE DOWN,
EIGHT TO GO.
LET'S GO TO
DOROTHY
KILGALLEN.

SORRY.
BEFORE YOUR
TIME, I'M DATING
MYSELF.

WHICH I KIND
OF HAVE TO DO
SINCE MATCH.COM
TURNED DOWN MY
APPLICATION.















OR AREN'T THERE THINGS YOU'D RATHER BE DOING, LIKE...



OH...I PLINNO...



...FINDING OUT JUST HOW IT WAS THAT MUSCLES MCGURK WASN'T BOTHERED WHEN I WAS DRAINING ALL YOUR SOULS?

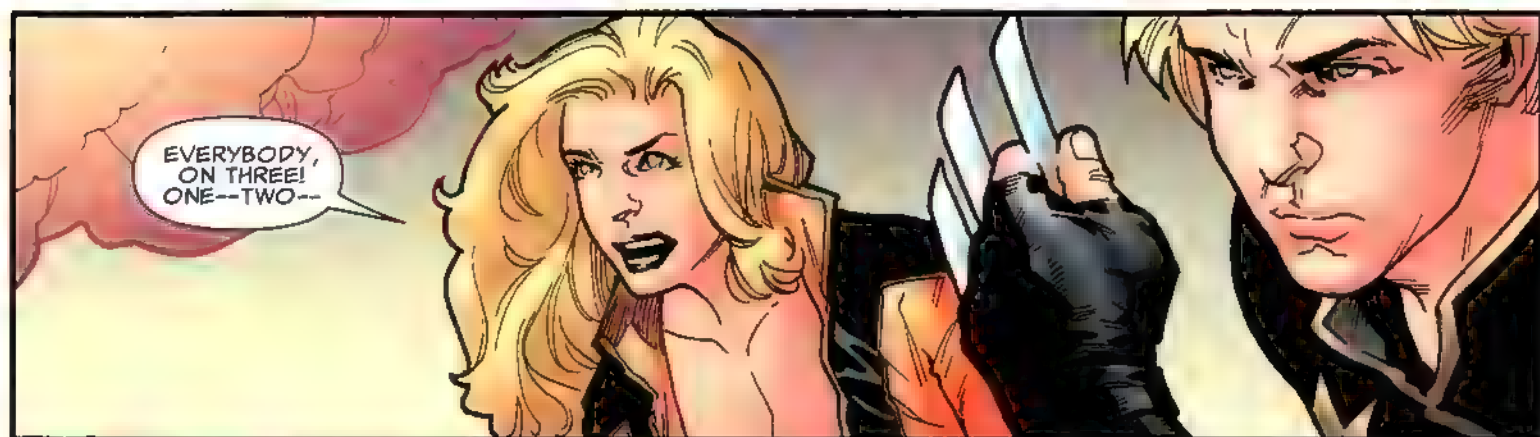
OOOOOF!



I DON'T
CARE ABOUT
ANYTHING YOU
HAVE TO
SAY!

ME
NEITHER!

SAME
HERE!



EVERYBODY,
ON THREE!
ONE--TWO--



HOLD
IT!

NOBODY
MOVE!
NOBODY DO
ANYTHING!

HOW DID I
KNOW YOU'D
BE THE ONE
TO ASK?

YOU
SEXY
THING.



MONET...
WHAT'RE
YOU--?

SHUT
UP.

IS
HE--?

IT'S NOT
HIM. IT'S
YOU. THERE'S
SOMETHING
WRONG WITH
YOU.

HUH?



MONET, THIS... THIS ISN'T THE TIME--

THIS MAY BE THE ONLY TIME,

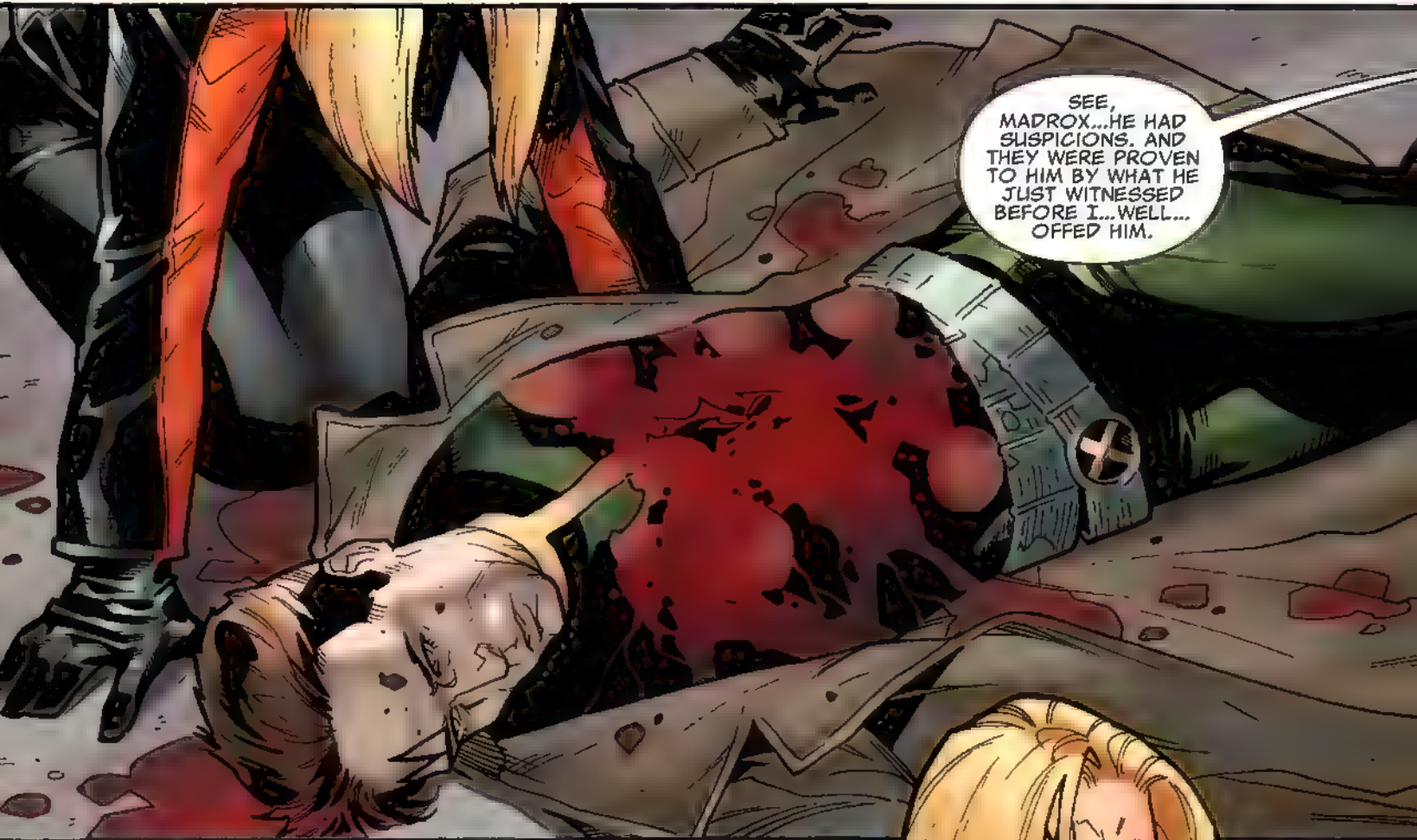


THAT MONSTER KILLED JAMIE! WHY SHOULD WE GIVE A DAMN ABOUT ANYTHING HE HAS TO SAY!



OH, YOU DON'T WANT TO HEAR WHAT I HAVE TO SAY.

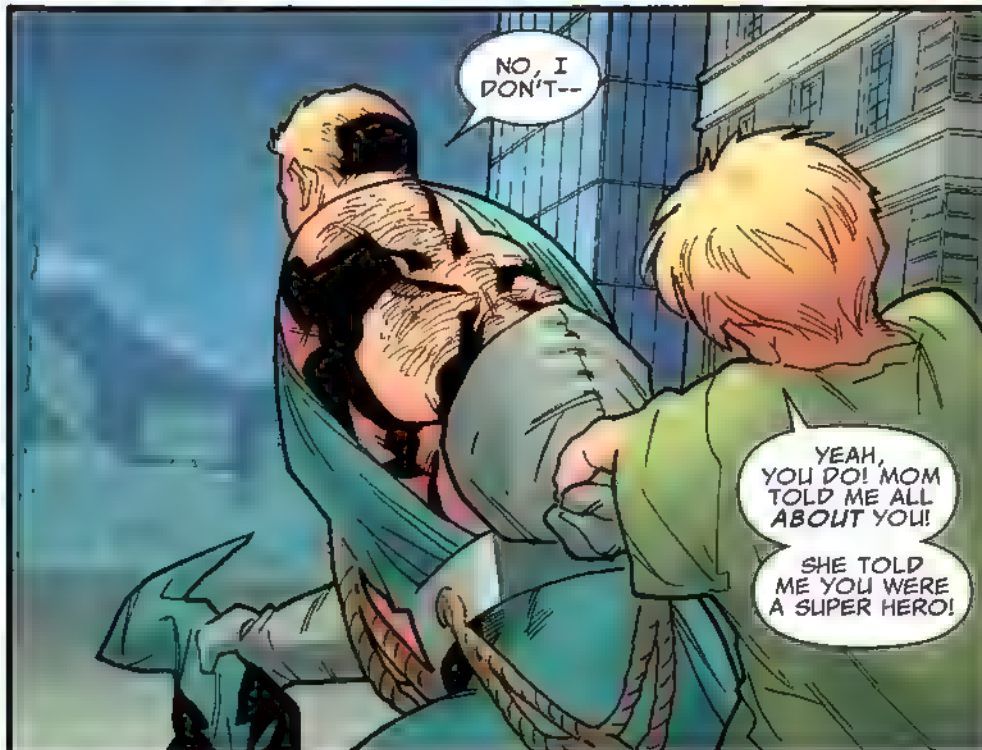
YOU WANT TO LISTEN TO HER.

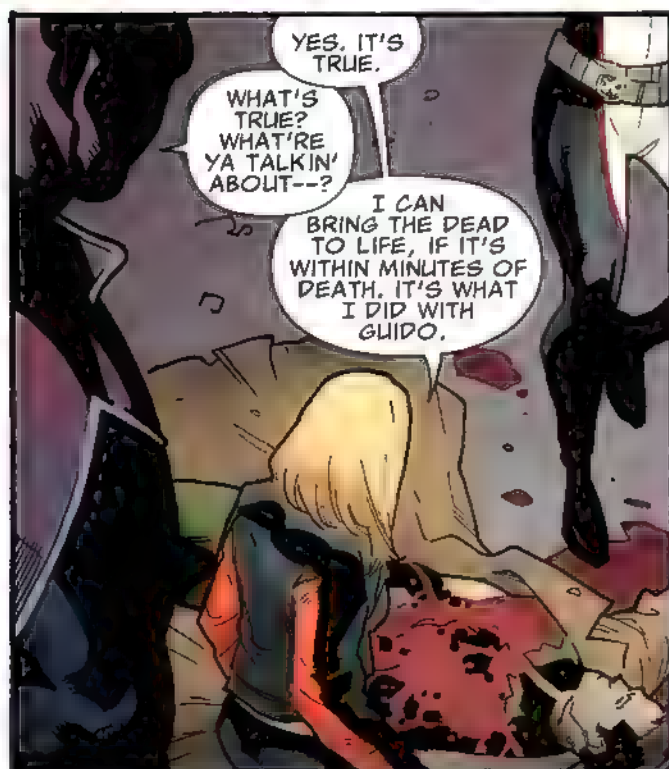
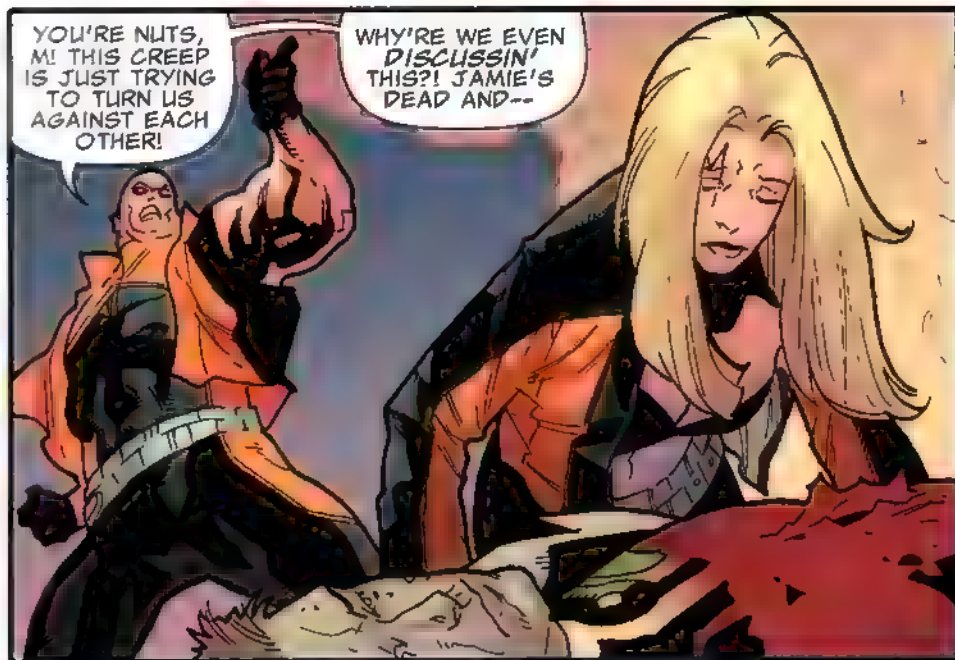


SEE, MADROX... HE HAD SUSPICIONS. AND THEY WERE PROVEN TO HIM BY WHAT HE JUST WITNESSED BEFORE I... WELL... OFFED HIM.



YOU GOT SOMETHING YOU WANNA GET OFF YOUR CHEST THERE, ACOLYTE?







THERE'S...A PROBLEM.

WHAT?!
WHAT PROBLEM?

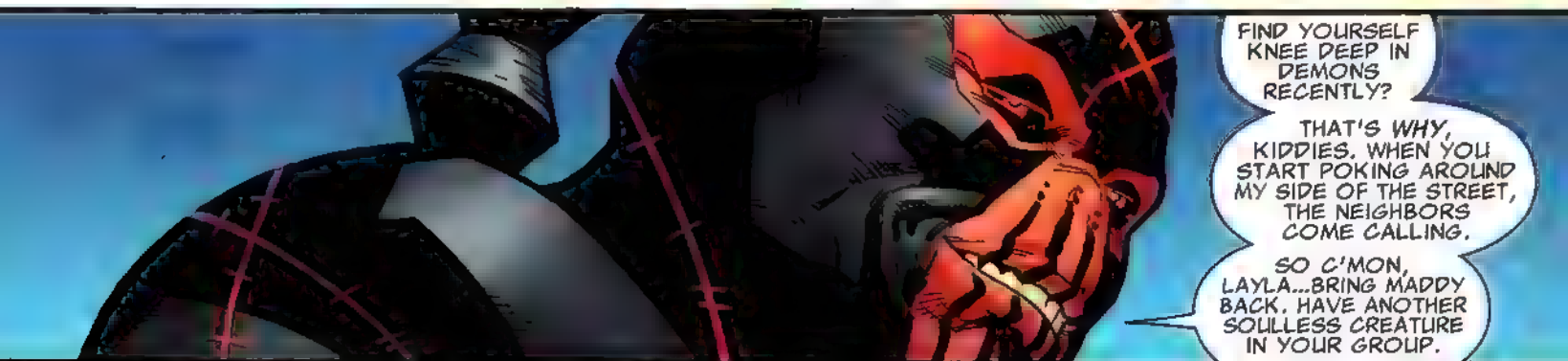
WHEN I
BRING PEOPLE
BACK, THEY
DON'T HAVE
A SOUL.

WHAT, YOU
MEAN I'M LIKE
A ZOMBIE?
AW, C'MON!



THAT'S THE
DUMBEST THING
I EVER--

UH...
GUYS?



FIND YOURSELF
KNEE DEEP IN
DEMONS
RECENTLY?

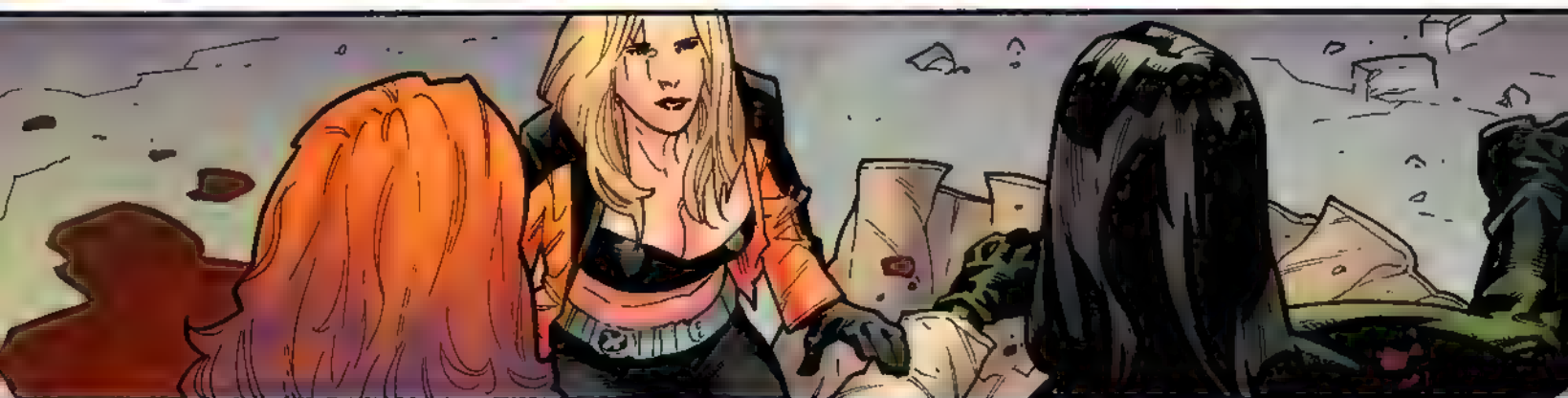
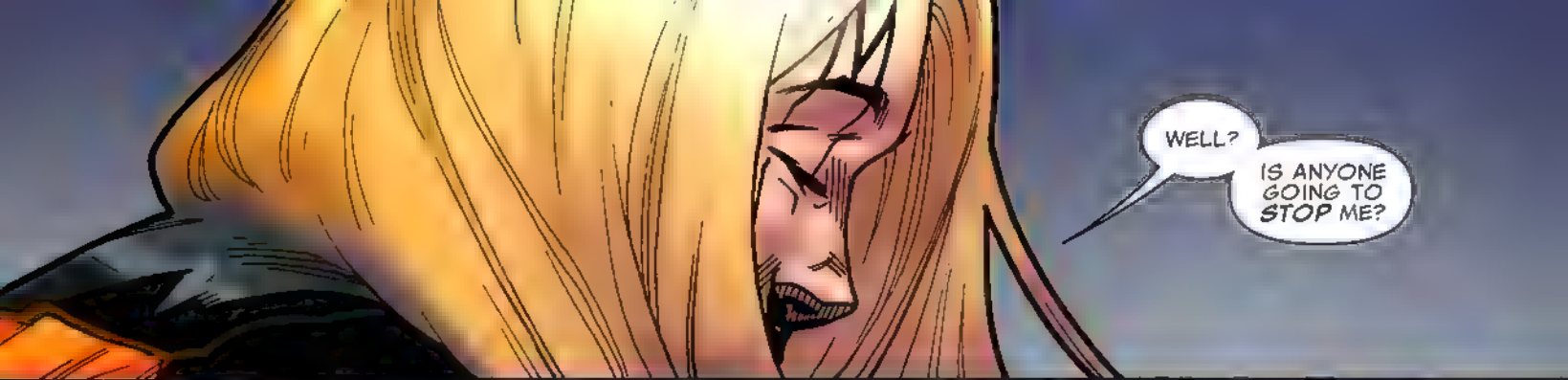
THAT'S WHY,
KIDDIES. WHEN YOU
START POKING AROUND
MY SIDE OF THE STREET,
THE NEIGHBORS
COME CALLING.

SO C'MON,
LAYLA...BRING MADDY
BACK. HAVE ANOTHER
SOULLESS CREATURE
IN YOUR GROUP.



IT'LL BE
FUN. THE
MORE, THE
SCARIER.







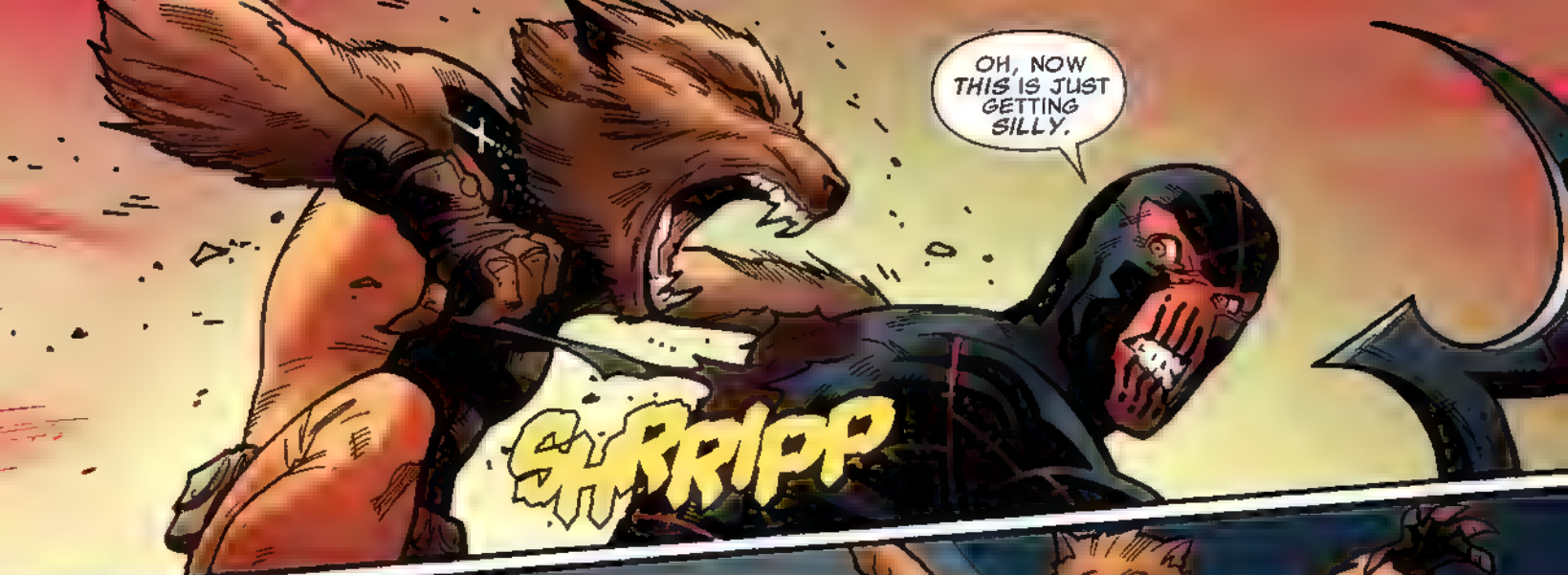
MIND IF
I WEIGH
IN?

**GET
HIM!**

SEE, GUYS
WITH NO SOULS
ARE A PAIN IN
THE NECK
FOR ME.

AND A GUY
WHO CAN CREATE
A WHOLE ARMY OF
'EM? THAT JUST
DOESN'T DO IT
FOR ME.

BOOM!



OH, NOW
THIS IS JUST
GETTING
SILLY.

SHRIIPP



YOU'RE
JUST NOT
GETTING
IT.

HOLY---!

SKRKK



YOU
CAN'T STOP
ME!

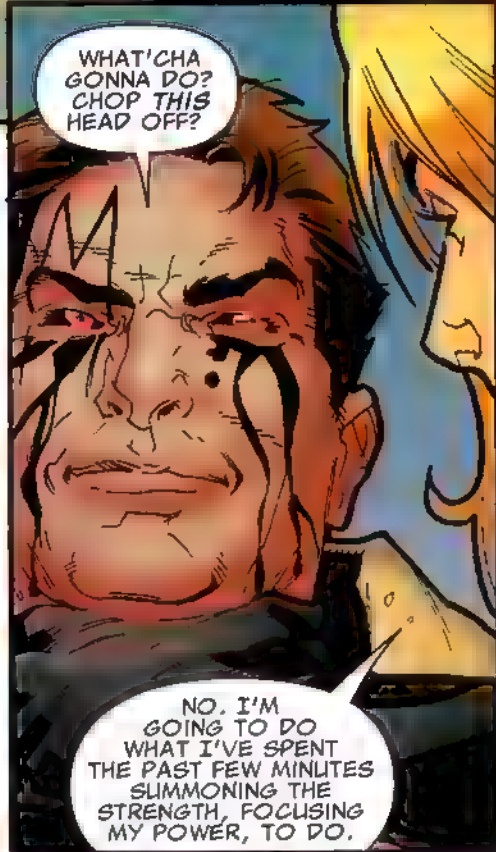
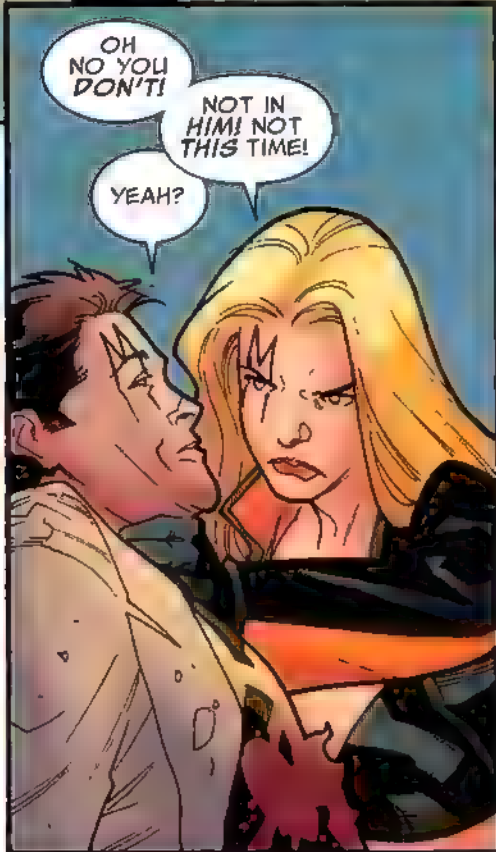
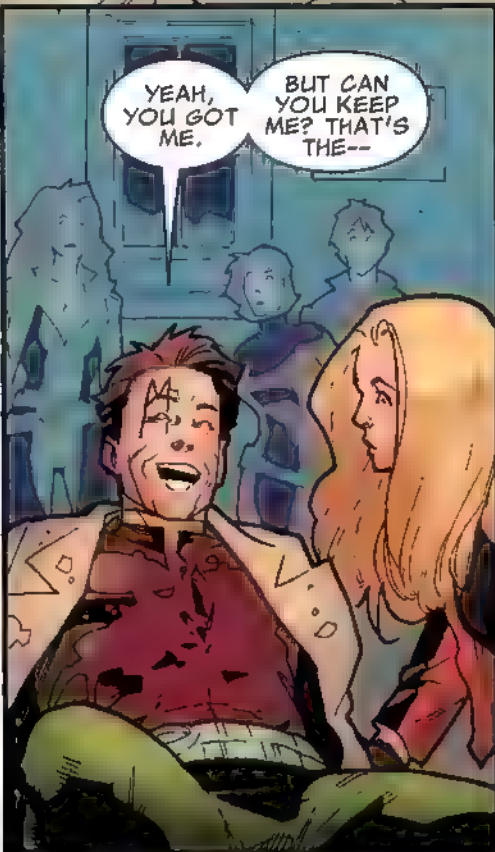
NONE
OF YOU
CAN!

YOU DON'T
HAVE THE MYSTIC
JUICE! YOU'RE JUST
A BUNCH OF MUTANTS
AND GENETIC
JUNKPILES!

SURE,
MUSCLE MAN
HASSLED ME, BUT
AFTER I CUT HIM TO
PIECES, I'LL STILL
BE ABLE TO SUCK
YOUR SOULS
DRY!

YOU'RE JUST
DELAYING THE
INEVITABLE!



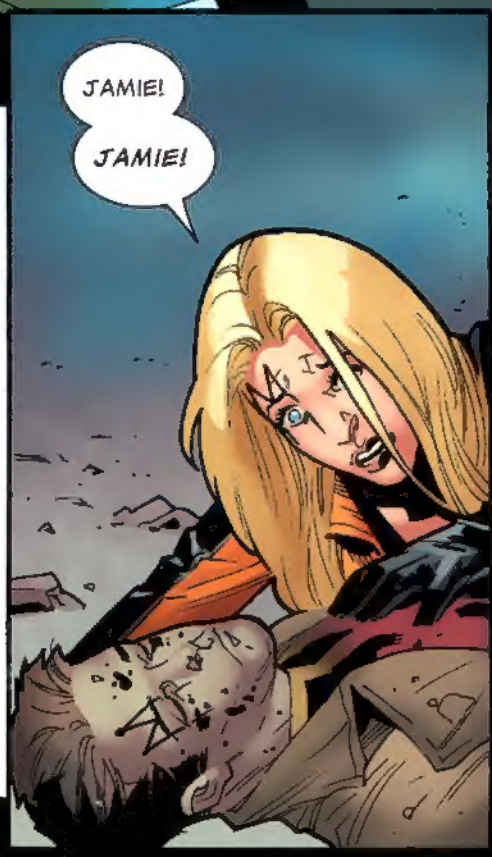






WHOOOOOOAAAAA!

AWESOME!



JAMIE!

JAMIE!



GET AWAY FROM HIM, LAYLA, OR I SWEAR TO GOD--

THIS ISN'T YOUR BUSINESS, MONET!

LIKE HELL IT ISN'T! WHAT KIND OF SICK--



SHUT UP! THE BOTH OF YOU!

IT DOESN'T MATTER! IT--



"HE'S NOT RESPONDING. MAYBE I WAITED TOO LONG, MAYBE IT WAS BLOODBATH, I DON'T KNOW..."

"...BUT HE'S GONE. JAMIE'S..."

"JAMIE'S GONE."

X-FACTOR WITNESSES

Once again, gang, spoiler alerts, as we discuss things that Marvel's been advertising in terms of upcoming developments. So if you haven't seen any of it and want to remain surprised, put this letters page aside and save it for after you've read #230.

Dear Mr. Peter David,

I wanted to start by saying that I literally fell in love with the characters. Thank you for bringing them "back to life" and making them "real characters" that we actually care for. Call me too sensitive, but I actually cried a few times and I never thought it could happen while reading a comic book, so I'm quite impressed. The fact that you are focusing on them rather than the actions is even more interesting. They're mutants, but yet, they couldn't be more human and I think it makes them even more noble.

However, I do have a question. Now that Layla is back from the future and has already given her knowledge to her past self, shouldn't her precognition abilities be less precise? She might still know stuff because she lived in the future and could have learned some of those stuff from books or things like that, but how can she still know what people are going to say and when?

Apart from that, X-Factor is definitely my favorite X-Title at the moment. Thank you, monsieur, and everyone else who's been working on X-Factor. Keep up the good work.

Jennifer Perraud

As you have seen in this very issue, Jennifer, Layla's knowledge isn't always precise. The extent of her knowledge is variable; sometimes it's accurate, sometimes less so, and the reason for it is going to be made explicit in #230. Because things have happened that aren't supposed to, which means that from this point on, Layla is sometimes going to find herself in terra incognita. And don't think for a moment that that's not going to mess with her head. Oh, and merci beaucoup pour les bon mots, mademoiselle.

To Mr. David and the X-Factor team,

I started reading X-Factor right before the Age of Apocalypse crossover. I was so enthralled that I went out and had nearly the entire run two months later. Not only do I love this title with a passion, but it means a lot more to me than "just another comic." Some of the issues I was missing way back when were Apocalypse's first two appearances. I never wanted to plunk down the money they cost. I was scheduled for open heart surgery to fix a birth defect at age 10 and my parents knew how much I loved X-Factor. About twenty minutes before I was given anesthesia, they surprised me with those two issues. Now you can imagine what anyone about to undergo open heart surgery in minutes would be feeling, let alone a child. I was growing more and more frightened, until reading them took my mind off of my fears, and brought me comfort in the worst moments of my life. During my week in the hospital, the Peter David run on X-Factor was all I had my parents bring me to read. This title, both right before and during recovery, truly helped me through a horrible time in my life.

Anyways, growing up, Guido was one of my favorite characters in any comic by any company. The team dynamic of Madrox, Siryn, Rahne, etc. was amazing. To have them all back now that I'm far older, after nearly a decade without? A dream! And written by Peter David again? Heaven! There is nothing bad I can say about this book. Not only that, but you've somehow improved the team dynamic of the old days by bringing in Layla, Longshot to complement Shatterstar... And Pip!!! He has always been my favorite cosmic character and to have him on X-Factor? You must have been inside my mind.

Now for a few numbered questions:

1. Having Shatterstar and Longshot on the same team... Well, I've always felt with their shared Mojoverse history there were some exciting and interesting stories to be told with regards to that. Any plans along those lines? It would also be great to have Mojo show up.

2. Pip is, as stated, just an amazing character. Any chance he can join the team out of the office more often? Also, might we see any of his pals from his days in the Marvel Cosmos show up anytime soon?

3. I love Strong Guy, always have, always will. Is dealing with his resurrection and the changes that has caused possibly on-deck for some answers right after, or at least shortly after, the BB storyline concludes?

4. Last but not least, any chance of one of everyone's favorite PAD character making a guest appearance? I speak, of course, of She-Hulk. Seeing you write her again, even for a one-off, would be amazing. And to have it be a story with X-Factor? Doubly amazing.

Finally, thank you, thank you, thank you for bringing back the letters page. I'm not a fan of message boards for comics, too many trolls (And yes, we know they're all written by Pip!) too many scattered topics... Just too much everything. For one, you don't have that intimate dialogue with the creators and/or editors. The letters page was a dead art form for far too long, and I'm glad to see it making a gradual return. On a side note, I love the feature of having personal anecdotes on the recap page. Awesome idea, and I love reading them each month.

Again, thank you so much for providing us all with an amazing comic that helped get me through a very difficult time in my life.

Richard Adams

First of all, Richard, that's an incredibly moving story, and I'm honored that my work helped you through what must have been a terrifying experience in your young life. Glad we at mighty Marvel could be there for you. Now, on to your questions:

1) Yes, there are plans for aspects of the Mojoverse to be bearing their heads in the future, but you'll have to wait and see the specifics.

2) We've seen Pip in the field every now and then, and if a situation shows up where Pip seems the go-to guy, I could see him coming along. But then who would watch the front desk?

3) Heck yes about Strong Guy. As you've seen, there were major developments regarding that this issue, and we'll see major blowback from it with #230.

4) No immediate plans for She-Hulk at the moment, but you never know what might happen around here.

To whom it may concern,

As a lifelong X-Men and Marvel Comics fan, and a trade unionist, I was surprised and disappointed to read in X-Factor 225 that the normally terrific Peter David (an author I have followed through many titles for almost 20 years!) chose to start the story by portraying union members as greedy for desiring to fulfill their negotiated contract, and X-Factor, a team of heroes, as scabs and union busters.

This is upside down. Marvel Comics' heroes fight for the little guy against the bullies! Not the reverse! Will X-Factor next help health insurers deny coverage to children with Leukemia? Or pensions for widows? Working people earn less today than in the 70s when inflation is taken into account, yet the society produces vastly more than in the 70s. When are working people going to get some? Unions are the main way - so please don't bash them!

I know that Marvel and David have done so many good, principled, progressive things over the

years, so this must just be an error or aberration. Thanks for reading this. I am a little upset, but still I've been waiting my whole life to say it: Make Mine Marvel!

Sincerely,
Jamie Smith

See, Jamie, this is the exact kind of situation that can make a writer nuts. Keep in mind that you're talking to a member of the Writers Guild of America. I nearly got frostbite walking the line with my union brothers in Times Square a few winters ago when we were on strike. So my personal philosophies are pro-union. Here's the thing: if the characters display attitudes that align with my own, people complain I'm using them to preach my own "agenda." If they act in a contrary manner, people object to THAT message. I wasn't depicting union members as being anything other than guys who were utterly convinced that they were being screwed over. I didn't depict the boss as being in the right, but instead a contractor who was feeling a financial crunch. And I didn't depict X-Factor as anything other than morally conflicted, but hey, they had bills to pay, the building had to come down anyway, and so they took the gig. Detective agencies sometimes—even frequently—take jobs they're not happy about. That's the way the world is. The bottom line is that not everyone in X-Factor does things that I approve of...and I think that's the way it should be.

Dear, Peter David and everyone at X-Factor,

I have been reading and enjoying the X-Factor book not only since the Madrox mini, but far back into Peter's original 90's run on the series. It is the only series that I collect that has been entertaining and completely consistent over the last 6 years. I love not only where you have brought the series but every character that either started here or was brought in over time.

I had a few questions I wanted to ask Peter and the rest of the team.

1. Is there any chance that any other former members from X-Factor (Havok, Polaris, Quicksilver) or even former X-Force, Generation X, or even Excalibur might either guest appear or join the team? I think Forge, Synch or Skin could make a decent addition to the group.

2. Basically same question as above but more pertaining to old villains from the old series and if there is a chance any of them might make appearances?

3. Is Darwin coming back?

4. What is Peter David's favorite sport? Team?

I look forward to many years of amazing fun and stories. 6 more years of X-Factor!

John Plomin

1) Well, John, as mighty Marvel has been advertising, certain key members from X-Factor (back in the day) are slated to show up. As for additions beyond that...I dunno. We're already walking a fine line between a team and a herd and I think adding more characters beyond the two announced would push us over that line.

2) Yes, indeed, there are.

3) Yes, indeed, he will.

4) My personal favorite sport? Bowling. And no, I don't have an official 300 game, although I do have an 800 series to my credit. In terms of teams that I watch? The Mets. That's why Guido keeps mentioning them.

Six more years? Why stop at that?

-PAD

